



# COLORADO

Department of Public  
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

PROGRAM: RETAIL FOOD

EFFECTIVE REGULATION: *Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations, July 1, 2013*

**INTERPRETIVE MEMO NO.: 15-03**

DATE: July 22, 2015

SUBJECT: Application of Backflow Prevention in section 5-202(B)(2) the *Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations*

This department routinely receives questions on when and where to cite a violation related to section 5-202(B)(2) of the *Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations* on the inspection report. This section indicates:

“An atmospheric vacuum breaker shall be located on the discharge side of the last valve and not less than six (6) inches (154.4 mm) above the flood rim of plumbing fixture or equipment. A shutoff valve downstream of the atmospheric vacuum breaker is prohibited.”

The intent of this memo is to clarify the underlined section of 5-202(B)(2) regarding the installation of backflow prevention devices. Violations of this section are critical and should be cited under 05c of the inspection report. However, in many cases there is an atmospheric vacuum breaker (AVB) attached to or integrated into a fixture, and shutoff valves are located downstream. In these instances each connection must be equipped with an appropriate secondary backflow prevention device. The following secondary backflow prevention applications are accepted and should not be cited as a violation:

- Chemical towers with an integrated backflow prevention device;
- Wasting “T’s” used in conjunction with chemical towers lacking integrated air gaps;
- Air gap between the water supply inlet and the flood rim of the plumbing fixture (i.e. kettle, pre-rinse basin); or,
- Dual check valve connected to a dedicated fill hose for equipment.

In all cases, backsiphonage and backflow prevention devices shall meet American Society of Sanitary Engineering (A.S.S.E.) standards for construction, installation, maintenance, inspection and testing for that specific application and type of device.

25-4-1601 C.R.S. provides CDPHE’s authority for the uniform statewide administration, implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of *The Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations*. This interpretive memo is issued in accordance with this authority and CDPHE expects its contents to be implemented uniformly.

All previous interpretive memoranda issued pertaining to this subject are hereby superseded as of the effective date above.

Jeff Lawrence, Director  
Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability

